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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/200,179 | 11/25/1998 | WALTER VIEGENER | VIEGENER-2 | 4534 |

20151 7590 12/19/2001

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EXAMINER

LUU, TUYET PHUONG PHAM

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3627

DATE MAILED: 12/19/2001

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



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DATE MAILED:

This is a communication from the examiner in charge of your application.
COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS

OFFICE ACTION SUMMARY

☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10-15-01

☐ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 D.C. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

☒ Claim(s) 1-9, 11, 13-21 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) 3-5 and 13-17 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 1, 2, 6-9, 11, 18-21 is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been

☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

☐ Notice of Reference Cited, PTO-892

☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

— SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES —

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

2. Claims 1, 2, 6-9, 11 and 18-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,108,134 to Irwin in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,484,174 to Gotoh et al.

Irwin discloses a press-fit arrangement comprising a socket (16) having at least one holding element (18) secured to the socket and cold formed together with the socket, see col. 4, lines 13-23. The holding element at least partially penetrates the material of the end portion (14) of the metal pipe to realize a positive connection with the metal pipe. The holding element has a material penetrating component consisting of a plurality of cutting arcuate projections (56) pointing in the direction of the end portion of the metal pipe for penetrating the metal pipe. Irwin further discloses a sealing ring (42) which can be positioned in front of or trailing the holding element (18); also, the sealing ring can be seating in the socket (16), see col. 4, lines 30-44. Irwin, however, fails to disclose the fitting having an anchoring groove for receiving the sealing ring. However, Irwin fails to disclose an anchoring groove for receiving the sealing ring. Gotoh et al. discloses a socket comprising an anchoring groove (11) for receiving a sealing ring (8). Thus, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the socket of Irwin with an anchoring groove so as to receive the sealing ring.

In reference to claim 2, the outer end of the socket is partially crimped circumferentially or radially to form a receiving groove to hold the holding element.

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As concerns claim 6, Irwin further discloses that the holding element (18) may be secured in the receiving groove by adhesion, thus forming a positive fit.

In reference to claim 9, the embodiment of Fig. 7, shows the outer peripheral surface of the socket formed with a circumferential groove (62) serving as an internal limit against which the pipe can abut, however it is capable of serving as an engagement member for attachment of a press tool.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground of rejection.

Applicant has amended claim 1 so that it is no longer generic to the embodiments of Figs. 7-11. Accordingly, claims 3-5 are withdrawn.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Teri Pham Luu** whose telephone number is **(703) 305-7421**. The examiner can normally be reached Monday-Friday from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **BethAnne Dayoan**, can be reached at **(703) 308-3865**.

Submission of your response by facsimile transmission is encouraged. Group 3620's **official** facsimile number is **(703) 305-3597**. Recognizing the fact that reducing cycle time in the processing and examination of patent applications will effectively increase a patent's term, it is to your benefit to submit responses by facsimile transmission whenever permissible. Such submission will place the response directly in our examining group's hands and will eliminate Post Office processing and delivery time as well as the PTO's mail room processing and delivery time. For a complete list of correspondence **not** permitted by facsimile transmission, see MPEP § 502.01. In general, most responses and/or amendments not requiring a fee, as well as those requiring a fee but charging such fee to a deposit account, can be submitted by facsimile transmission. Responses requiring a fee which applicant is paying by check **should not be** submitted by facsimile transmission separately from the check.

Responses submitted by facsimile transmission should include a Certificate of Transmission (MPEP § 512). The following is an example of the format the certification might take:

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office (Fax No. (703) 305-3597) on _____ (Date) _____

(Typed or printed name of person signing this certificate)

(Signature)

If your response is submitted by facsimile transmission, you are hereby reminded that the original should be retained as evidence of authenticity (37 CFR 1.4 and MPEP § 502.02). Please do not separately mail the original or another copy unless required by the Patent and Trademark Office. Submission of the original response or a follow-up copy of the response after your response has been transmitted by facsimile will only cause further unnecessary delays in the processing of your application; duplicate responses where fees are charged to a deposit account may result in those fees being charged twice.

Communications via Internet e-mail regarding this application, other than those under 35 U.S.C. 132 or which otherwise require a signature, may be used by the applicant and should be directed to **bethanne.dayoan@uspto.gov**.

All Internet e-mail communications will be made of record in the application file. PTO employees do not engage in Internet communications where there exists a possibility that sensitive information could be identified or exchanged unless the record includes a properly signed expressed waiver of the confidentiality requirements of 35 U.S.C. 122. This is more clearly set forth in the Interim Internet Usage Policy published in the Official Gazette of the Patent and Trademark on February 25, 1997 at 1195 OG 89.

Any inquiry of a general nature relating to the status of this application should be directed to the group receptionist at **(703) 308-2168**.



**TERI PHAM LUU
PRIMARY EXAMINER**

tpl
December 18, 2001